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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2175

6

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/985,871

Applicant(s)

SHERWOOD, AMY L.

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


DOV POPOVICI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 06-February-2004, claims 1-31 are presently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6, 13-14, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,128) and in view of Rosen et al (U.S. No. Patent 6,097,382.)

As to claim 1, Courter et al teaches a method comprising the steps of receiving a request to edit an existing data entry (see column 3, lines 60-65, where "request to edit an existing data entry" is read on "SQL statements are interactively entered into the computer system by an operator");

copying the existing data entry to create a previous data entry (see column 5, lines 17-19, where "create a previous data entry" is read on "modifications are logged in the log file"; and see column 5, lines 65-67);

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editing the existing data entry; (see column 5, lines 17-19); and
associating the previous data entry with an associated data entry (see column 5, lines 65
66-67, where "previous data entry" is read on "old name" and "associated data entry" is read
on "new name".)

Courter et al does not teach the presence of a personnel directory.

Rosen et al teaches the presence of a personnel directory (see column 2, lines 20-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the
time the invention was made to have modified Courter et al to include the presence of a
personnel directory.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to have modified Courter et al by the teaching of Rosen et al, because by
including the presence of a personnel directory, the system would allow the user to view and
update employee information.

As to claim 2, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the previous data entry is stored
in a historical database and the associated data entry is stored in a current database (see
Courter et al, column 5, lines 17-19, where "modifications" is read on "previous data entry",
"historical database" is read on "log file", "associated data entry" is read on "data", and
"current database" is read on "database".)

As to claim 3, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the step of editing comprises
changing the existing data entry to a new data entry, and wherein the associated data entry is

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the new data entry (see Courter et al, column 5, line 64, the action of changing an employee's name is interpreted as changing an existing data entry to a new data entry.)

As to claim 4, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the existing data entry is a name of a person listed in the personnel directory, and wherein the new data entry is a new name of the person (see Courter et al, column 5, line 64, before the name of an employee is changed, the old name would be in the database, and once the operator indicated a name change, the new name would be in the new data entry). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 5, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the step of editing the existing data entry comprises deleting the existing; data entry, and wherein the associated data entry is a replacement data entry of the personnel directory (see Courter et al, column 5. line 64, the action of changing an employee's name is interpreted as deleting the existing data entry and replace it with a replacement data entry). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 6, Courter et al as modified teaches further comprising the step of prompting a user to identify the replacement data entry (see Courter et al, column 4, lines 60-65, by allowing the operator to input SQL statements through via operator interface, the system is prompting the user; and see column 5, line 64, when the name of the employee is to be changed, the new name which is the replacement data entry is identified.)

As to claim 13, Courter et al teaches a system for maintaining a personnel directory comprising:

(b) a current database in communication with the personnel directory application (see column 5, lines 17-19, where "personnel directory application" is read on "application"); and

(c) a historical database in communication with the personnel directory application (see column 5, lines 17-19, where "personnel directory application" is read on "application" and "historical database" is read on "log file");

wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to establish associations between up-to-date data entries of the current database and outdated data entries of the historical database (see column 5, lines 64-67, where "up-to--date data entries" is read on "New Name", "outdated data entries" is read on "Old Name", the ;associations is both names are contained in the log file). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 14, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to copy a data entry of the current database into the historical database (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 18-19 and see column 5, lines 64-67, where modifications is resulted in Old Name is being stored in the log file), to edit the data entry of the current database into an edited data entry (see Courter et al, column 5, line 65, where "edit" is read on "the name of an employee is changed"), and to associate the edited data entry of the current database with the copied data entry of the historical database (see Courter et al,

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column 5, line 65-67, where association is established by the entry in the log which contains both New Name and Old Name). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 17, Courter et al as modified teaches, wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to copy a data entry of the current database into the historical database (see Courter et al, column 5, line 66-57, where "Old Name" in the current database is logged in the log file, and where "historical database" is read on "log file"), to delete the data entry of the current database, and to associate the copied data entry of the historical database with a replacement data entry of the current database (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 64-67, where the "the name of an employee is changed" is interpreted as deleting the old name and replacing it with the new name; the association is established by the log entry for "New Name, Old Name"). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 18, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to prompt a user to determine the replacement data entry (see Courter et al, column 4, lines 60-65, by allowing the operator to input SQL statements through via operator interface, the system is prompting the user; and see column 5, line 64, when "the name of the employee is to be changed", the new name which is the replacement data entry is identified). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,128) in view of Rosen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,382), as applied to claims 1-6, 13-14, and 17-18 above, and further in view of Seestrom et al (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0147731 A1.)

As to claim 7, Courter et al as modified still does not teach further comprising the step of identifying the replacement data entry automatically using predefined rules.

Seestrom et al teaches further comprising the step of identifying the replacement data entry automatically using predefined rules (see paragraph 27, where "predefined rules" is read on "signal is an "N" indicating a name change" and "replacement data" is read on "new name".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the step of identifying the replacement data entry automatically using predefined rules.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Seestrom et al, because by including the step of using the "N" signal indicating a name change, would allow the application to make the appropriate modification to the employee's record in the database.

5. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,128) in view of Rosen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,382), as applied to

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claims 1-6, 13-14, and 17-18 above, and further in view of Okura (U.S. Patent No. 5,829,003.)

As to claim 8, Courter et al as modified still does not teach wherein the existing data entry corresponds to a departed person, and wherein the replacement data entry corresponds to a person who has assumed responsibilities of the departed person.

Okura teaches wherein the existing data entry corresponds to a departed person and wherein the replacement data entry corresponds to a person who has assumed responsibilities of the departed person (see Fig. 3A and 3B and see column 10, lines 36-41, where "departed person" is read on "Kyoko Yamamoto" and "replacement data entry" is read on "Hanako Suzuki".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the existing data entry corresponds to a departed person, and wherein the replacement data entry corresponds to a person who has assumed responsibilities of the departed person.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Okura because by including the existing data entry corresponds to a departed person, and wherein the replacement data entry corresponds to a person who has assumed responsibilities of the departed person, would identified a new service superior in the organizational chart.

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6. Claims 9-12, 15-16, 19-26, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,128) in view of Rosen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,382), as applied to claims 1-6, 13-14, and 17-18 above, and further in view of Pisello et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,607.)

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As to claim 9, Courter et al as modified still does not teach further comprising the steps of: receiving a search query looking for the previous data entry; searching the current database for the previous data entry; searching the historical database for the previous data entry; identifying the associated data entry as corresponding to the previous data entry; and reporting the previous data entry and the associated data entry.

Pisello et al teaches further comprising the steps of receiving a search query looking for the previous data entry searching the current database for the previous data entry (see column 16, lines 51-59, where "search query" is read on "SQL", "previous data entry" is read on "version number", and "current database" is read on "primary storage"); searching the historical database for the previous data entry (see column 29, lines 41-46, where "previous data entry" is read on "files and chronological file attributes"); identifying the associated data entry as corresponding to the previous data entry; and reporting the previous data entry and the associated data entry (see column 14, table 2, where "associated data entry" is read on "the line containing entry "931004 09:15" and "previous data entry" is read on "the line containing entry "931003 17:35".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the

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receiving a search query looking for the previous data entry; searching the current database for the previous data entry; searching the historical database for the previous data entry; identifying the associated data entry as corresponding to the previous data entry; and reporting the previous data entry and the associated data entry.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including the following activities of receiving a search query looking for the previous data entry; searching the current database for the previous data entry; searching the historical database for the previous data entry; identifying the associated data entry as corresponding to the previous data entry; and reporting the previous data entry and the associated data entry, would allow the System administrator to locate the previous entry and the associated data entry from either the current or the historical database.

As to claim 10, Courter et al as modified still does not teach further comprising the step of reporting how the previous data entry and the associated data entry are associated.

Pisello et al teaches further comprising the step of reporting how the previous data entry and the associated data entry are associated (see column 14, table 2, where "previous data entry" is read on "931004 09:15", "associated data entry" is read on "931003 17:35", "associated" is read on "dave.doc", both entries have "dave.doc" as the file name.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the step of reporting how the previous data entry and the associated data entry are associated.

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It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including the step of reporting how the previous data entry and the associated data entry are associated, would allow the System administrator to identify the file version number.

As to claim 11, Courter et al as modified still does not teach further comprising the step of reporting why the previous data entry was superseded.

Pisello et al teaches further comprising the step of reporting why the previous data entry was superseded (see column 14, table 2, where "previous data entry" is read "the line containing entry "931003 17:35"" and the reason the previous data entry is superseded because the revision date is earlier.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the step of reporting why the previous data entry was superseded.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including the step of reporting why the previous data entry was superseded, would allow the system administrator to identify- how long ago the file was modified.

As to claim 12, Courter et al as modified still does not teach wherein the step of receiving a search query comprises at least one of receiving the search query in a search engine of the

personnel directory and receiving the search query as a request to browse a list of data entries from at least one of the current database and the historical database.

Pisello et al teaches wherein the step of receiving a search query comprises at least one of receiving the search query in a search engine of the personnel directory and receiving the search query as a request to browse a list of data entries from at least one of the current database and the historical database (see column 14, lines 16-19, see column 13, lines 5-10, where "current database" is read on "relational database", and see Table 21.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the step of receiving a search query comprises at least one of receiving the search query in a search engine of the personnel directory and receiving the search query as a request to browse a list of data entries from at least one of the current database and the historical database.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including the step of receiving; a search query comprises at least one of receiving the search query in a search engine of the personnel directory .and receiving the search query as a request to browse a list of data entries from at least one of the current database and the historical database, would allow the System administrator to look at the results of the search query. With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

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As to claim 15, Courter et al as modified teaches to identify the copied data entry as corresponding to the edited data entry (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 65-67, where corresponding is established by the entry in the log, which contains both New Name and Old Name.)

Courter et al as modified still does not teach wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to search the current database for the copied data entry, to search the historical database for the copied data entry.

Pisello et al teaches wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to search the current database for the copied data entry (column 16, lines 51-59, where "copied data entry" is read on "version number" and "current database" is read on "primary storage"), to search the historical database for the copied data entry (see column 29, lines 41-46, where "copied data entry" is read on "chronological file attributes".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the personnel directory application is adapted to search the current database for the copied data entry, to search the historical database for the copied data entry.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including the personnel directory application is adapted to search the current database for the copied data entry, to search the historical database for the copied data entry, would allow the System administrator to locate the copied data entry from either the current

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or the historical database. With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 16, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the personnel directory application is adapted to provide an explanation of the association between the copied data entry and the edited data entry (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 65-67, where "explanation" is read on "entry for New Name, Old Name). With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 19, Courter et al teaches a personnel directory application comprising:

(a) a first database interface through which the personnel directory application is adapted to store current data entries in a current database (see column 2, lines 30-35, where "current data entries" is read on "objects");

(b) a second database interface through which the personnel directory application is adapted to store outdated data entries in a historical database (see column 5, lines 64-67, where "outdated data entries" is read on "Old Name", and "historical database" is read on "log file");

Courter et al does not teach

(c) a graphical user interface that accepts a search query for a desired outdated data entry, wherein the personnel directory establishes associations between the current data entries in the current database and the outdated data entries in the historical database, and wherein the

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graphical user interface, in response to the search query, presents the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database.

Pisello et al teaches:

(c) a graphical user interface (see column 29, lines 23-27) that accepts a search query for a desired outdated data entry (see column 15, lines 24-40, where "search query for a desired outdated data entry" is read on "searchable database field of revision date and time"), wherein the personnel directory establishes associations between the current data entries in the current database and the outdated data entries in the historical database, and wherein the graphical user interface, in response to the search query, presents the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database (see column 14, Table 2, where "current data entries" is read on "the line containing entry "931004 09:15" "current database" is read on "File source: Acct 111.O\..", "outdated data entries" is read on "the line containing entry "931003 11:59", "historical database" is read on "File source:AcctBak.O\..", the associations is established by the "File name: dave.doc".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al to include a graphical user interface that accepts a search query for a. desired outdated data entry, wherein the personnel directory establishes associations between the current data entries in the current database and the outdated data entries in the historical database, and wherein the graphical user interface,

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in response to the search query, presents the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including a graphical user interface that accepts a search query for a desired outdated data entry, wherein the personnel directory establishes associations between the current data entries in the current database and the outdated data entries in the historical database, and wherein the graphical user interface, in response to the search query, presents the desired outdated data entry from the historical database and its associated current data entry from the current database, would allow the user to easily search and view previous and current data entries from the current and historical database. With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 20, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the current database and the historical database are a single database (see Courter et al, column 4, lines 39-40, where "current database" is read on "database"; see column 18-21; where "historical database" is read on "log file" and "single database is read on "primary data storage".)

As to claim 21, Courter et al teaches a method for maintaining a personnel directory of an organization comprising the steps copying an existing data entry into a copied data entry (see column 5, lines 17-19 and lines 65-67, where "existing data entry" is read on "Old Name" and "copied data entry" is read on "log file contains an entry");

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editing the existing data entry to create a new data entry (see column 5, line 64);
associating the new data entry with the copied data entry (see column 5, lines 65-67,
where association is established by the log entry "New Name, Old Name".)

Courter et al does not teach:

receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and
reporting the copied data entry and the associated new data entry.

Pisello et al teaches :

receiving a search query for the copied data entry; (see column 15, lines 24-40, where
"search query for copied data entry" is read on "searchable database field of File
Chronology');

reporting the copied data entry and the associated new data entry (see column 14, table 2,
where "copied data entry" is read on "the line containing entry "931003 17:35" and "new data
entry" is read on "the line containing entry "931004 09:15".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the
time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al to include receiving a search
query for the copied data entry; and reporting the copied data entry and the associated new
data entry.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the
invention was made to have modified Courter et al by the teaching of Pisello et al because by
including receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and reporting the copied data
entry and the associated new data entry, would allow the user to easily search and view the

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copied data entry and the associated new data entry. With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 22, Courter et al as modified teaches further comprising the step of reporting how the copied data entry and the associated new data entry are associated (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 64-67, where log entry is ,a form for reporting how the copied data entry and the associated new data entry are associated.)

As to claim 23, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the existing data entry includes a name of a member in the organization, and wherein the step of editing comprises changing the name of the member (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 64-67.)

As to claim 24, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the existing data entry and the new data entry are stored in a current database (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 64-67, where "existing data entry" is read on "Old Name", "new data entry" is read on "New Name", and "current database" is read on "log file"), and wherein the copied data entry is stored in a historical database (see Courter et al, Fig. 5, where "historical database" is read on "secondary storage device".)

As to claim 25, Courter et al teaches a method for maintaining a personnel directory of an organization comprising the steps of:

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copying an existing data entry into a copied data entry (see column 5, lines 17-19 and lines 65-67, where "existing data entry" is read on "Old Name" and "copied data entry" is read on "log file contains an entry");

deleting the existing data entry (see column 5, line 17-19);

determining a replacement data entry (see column 5, line 64-67, where "replacement data entry" is read on "New Name"); when the name of the employee is changed, it is determined that the new name is the replacement data entry);

associating the copied data entry with the replacement data entry (see column 5, lines 65-67, where "copied data entry" is read on "Old Name", "replacement data entry" is read on "New Name"; Association is established by the log entry "New Name, Old Name");

receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and reporting the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry.

Courter et al does not teach receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and reporting the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry.

Pisello et al teaches receiving a search query for the copied data entry; (see column 15, lines 24-40, where "search query for copied data entry" is read on "searchable database field of File Chronology") and reporting the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry (see column 14, table 2, where "copied data entry" is read on "the line containing entry "931003 17:35"" and "replacement data entry" is read on "the line containing entry "931004 09:15"").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al to include receiving a search

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query for the copied data entry; and reporting the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al by the teaching of Pisello et al because by including receiving a search query for the copied data entry; and reporting the copied data entry and the associated new data entry, would allow the user to easily search and view the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry. With respect to "personnel directory", please refer to claim 1 for the teaching of Rosen et al.

As to claim 26, Courter et al as modified teaches further comprising the step of reporting how the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry are associated (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 64-67, where log entry is a form of reporting how the copied data entry and the associated replacement data entry are associated.)

As to claim 30, Courter et al as modified teaches wherein the step of determining comprises prompting a user to specify the replacement data entry (see Courter et al, column 4, lines 60-65, by allowing the operator to input SQL statements through via operator interface, the system is prompting the use; and see Courter et al, column 5, line 64, when the name of the employee is to be changed, the new name which is the replacement data entry is identified.)

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As to claim 31, Courter et al as modified teaches, wherein the replacement data entry is stored in a current database (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 17-18, where "updating" is read on "replacement data entry is stored in the current database") and the copied data entry is stored in a historical database (see Courter et al, column 5, lines 64-67, where "copied data entry" is read on "Old Name", "historical database" is read on "log file".)

7. Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courter et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,128) in view of Rosen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,382), and further in view of Pisello et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,495,607), as applied to claims 9-12, 15-16, 19-26, and 30-31 above, and still further in view of Okura (U.S. Patent No. 5,829,003).

As to claim 27, Courter et al as modified still does not teach wherein the existing data entry includes information related to a member who is departing the organization, and wherein the replacement data entry includes information related to a replacement member of the organization who substitutes for the departing member.

Okura teaches wherein the existing data entry includes information related to a member who is departing the organization (see Fig. 3A and 3B; see column 9, lines 44-47, where "existing data entry" is read on "employee record 54r-5", "member who is departing the organization" is read on "Kyoko Yamamoto"), and wherein the replacement data entry includes information related to a replacement member of the organization who substitutes for the departing member (see column 10, lines 36-41, where "replacement data entry" is read on "employee record 54r--5", "replacement member" is read on "Hanako Suzuki".)

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, to include the existing data entry includes information related to a member who is departing the organization, and wherein the replacement data entry includes information related to a replacement member of the organization who substitutes for the departing member.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Okura because by including the existing data entry includes information related to a member who is departing the organization, and wherein the replacement data entry includes information related to a replacement member of the organization who substitutes for the departing member, would allow the correct reassignment of the departing member organizational position.

As to claim 28, Courter et al as modified still does not teach wherein the step of determining comprises determining an organizational position of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry with the organizational position, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry.

Okura teaches wherein the step of determining comprises determining an organizational position of the departing member from the existing data entry (see Fig. 3A and 3B; see column 9, lines 44-47, where "organizational position" is read on "superior member", "departing member" is read on "Kyoko Yamamoto"), locating; a second existing data entry with the organizational position, and making the second existing data entry the replacement

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data entry (see column 10, lines 36-41, where "organizational position" is read on "service superior" and "replacement data entry" is read on "Hanako Suzuki".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified to include the step of determining comprises determining an organizational position of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry with the organizational position, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Okura because by including the step of determining comprises determining an organizational position of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry with the organizational position, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry, would allow the re-assignment of the departing member's organizational position to the appropriate personnel in the organization.

As to claim 29, Courter et al as modified still does not teach wherein the step of determining comprises determining a supervisor of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry corresponding to the supervisor, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry.

Okura teaches, wherein the step of determining comprises determining a supervisor of the departing member from the existing data entry, (see Fig. 3A and 3B, see column 9, lines 38-41, where "supervisor" is read on "service superior", "departing member" is read on "Kyoko

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Yamamoto", and "existing data entry" is read on "employee record 54r-4"), locating a second existing data entry corresponding to the supervisor, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry (see column 10, lines 36-41, where "replacement data entry" is read on "Hanako Suzuki".)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, the step of determining comprises determining a supervisor of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry corresponding to the supervisor, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Courter et al as modified, by the teaching of Okura because by including the step of determining comprises determining a supervisor of the departing member from the existing data entry, locating a second existing data entry corresponding to the supervisor, and making the second existing data entry the replacement data entry, would allow the supervisor of the departing member to assume the departing member's organizational position.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on 06-February-2004 with respect to the rejected claims in view of the cited references have been fully considered but they are not found to be persuasive:

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In response to the applicant's arguments that "there is no suggestion or motivation in Courter for a user to view stored employee information", and that "there is no teaching or suggestion for a user to view and manipulate the log file", the arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive, because the "viewing employee data", as indicated in the Office Action, is taught by the secondary reference, Rosen et al (see column 2, lines 20-39, and see figures 3A-3C). Furthermore, Courter et al teaches user's ability to manipulate data, and he teaches that "as the data is being modified, all operations on the data are logged into a log file" (see column 1, lines 53-63, and see column 3, lines 34-41.)

In response to the applicant's arguments that "there is no motivation to modify Courter with Rosen's teachings of a personnel directory to allow a user to view employee information stored in the log file", the arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive, because the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, both cited references teach inventions that are in the same field of endeavor, and the motivation is established in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify Courter et al by the teaching of Rosen et al, because by including the presence of a personnel directory, the system would allow the user to view and update employee information.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

tm

April 7, 2004


DOV POPOVICI
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